provident Fund, also provides for a Pension Scheme and an Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme.

Besides, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 also are applicable to the workers in the organised as well as unorganised sector as per the terms and conditions specified in these Acts.

(b) and (c) Review/updating of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy, taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws. The second National Commission on Labour set up to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector is expected to submit its report by 15.02.2002.

Flouting of Labour Laws

1314. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 6th September, 2001 under the caption "Labour laws flouted with impunity";

(b) whether the workers arc harassed with wide spread industrial sickness lockouts, closure and anti-labour policies pursued by the employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Centre as well as States to check plight of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Dispute Act

1315. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently finalised the amendments to be carried out to the Industrial Dispute Act, and the Contract

Labour Act, so as to kickstart the second generation of economic reforms and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether before finalising the matter it was discussed with the concerned ministries and also with the State Governments and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for rushing with the amendments without awaiting recommendations of the Labour Commission which is likely to report early next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. Government's intention to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has already been announced while presenting the Budget for 2Q01-2002. As these matters are still under discussions, it will be premature to give any further information in this regard.

(b) and (c) So far as consultation with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India is concerned, amendment proposals in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, have been considered in the various meetings of the Inter-Ministrial Group.

Changes in labour laws such as Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition)Act, 1970 are a continuous process and involve consultations with the tripartite partners. It may, therefore, not be administratively expedient to put a stop to the process of carrying .out changes which are overdue, in the existing labour laws until the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour is received.

Employment Strategy during the Ninth Five Year Plan

1316. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the focus of employment strategies during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether these strategies have been able to achieve the desired results; and